



**Dear Taizé travelers, dear parents,**

Since the group trip to Taizé for teens and young adults is a new offering from Zenith Institute and, for many, involves a few more questions and preparations, we would like to provide you with more detailed information here for your planning and final registration decision.

On the following pages, you will find information about our meeting point, the leadership team, support for travel planning a packing list, emergency numbers, and program notes for the week in the ecumenical Taizé Community.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact us at any time at [info@zenithinstitute.com](mailto:info@zenithinstitute.com) or at +41788290890 (Gemma, Switzerland), +4915733705483 (Nori, Germany). These two numbers may also be used as emergency numbers during the week in Taizé.

We are very much looking forward to starting this adventure with you and spending an unforgettable week with new and familiar friends in this international community.

With Love, Gemma and Nori

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*Coming to Taizé means seeking communion with God through common prayer, song, silence, personal reflection, and conversation. A stay in Taizé can help you gain distance from everyday life, meet many different people, and reflect on your own relationship with the Divine and your own role in society.*

**Start:** Sunday, August 2, 2026, individual arrival at the Ecumenical Taizé Community throughout the day (if possible by 7:00 PM for dinner). Please let us know your arrival time so we can welcome you.

**End:** Sunday, August 9, 2026, ending with the closing service, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM.

**Arrival and Departure:** Participants are responsible for their own journey to and from Taizé. There is the possibility to travel with Gemma from Switzerland (or join along the way), and Nori has two seats in his van for travelers from Germany (meeting point to be agreed upon). Please contact us directly for this.

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## Travel Planning

### Gemma's Travel Plan

#### **Outward Journey: Sunday, 02.08.2026**

- Bern dep: 08:34
- Geneva arr: 10:38
- Geneva dep: 10:46
- Annecy arr: 12:16
- Annecy dep: 12:29
- Macon-Loché TGV arr: 14:36

#### **Return Journey: Sunday, 09.08.2026**

- Macon-Loché TGV dep: 14:23
- Annecy arr: 16:33
- Annecy dep: 16:44
- Geneva arr: 18:13
- Geneva dep: 18:20
- Bern arr: 20:26

### Travel Tips (Train and Bus)

- From **Paris**, choose Mâcon-Loché TGV as your destination station (this station is closest to Taizé).
- *Note:* TGV ticket prices vary significantly depending on the purchase date.

- Slower trains from Paris-Bercy or Paris-Austerlitz to Chalon-sur-Saône or Mâcon-Ville are often cheaper for last-minute bookings.
  - From **Lyon**, choose Mâcon-Ville or Mâcon-Loché TGV.
  - From **Geneva**, choose Mâcon-Ville or Mâcon-Loché TGV (via Lyon Part-Dieu or Bourg-en-Bresse).
  - From **Strasbourg**, choose Chalon-sur-Saône.
  - From the Mâcon-Ville, Mâcon-Loché TGV, and Chalon-sur-Saône stations, there is a **bus connection** to Taizé (see timetable in the appendix). We recommend buying the ticket on the bus.
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## Costs & Formalities

**Costs:** 220 EUR to be brought in cash.

- Includes: Accommodation, meals, program, group support by Gemma and Nori.
- Excludes: Costs for arrival and return journey.

We intentionally keep the price low for families and young adults. If you can afford more, Zenith Institute welcomes donations to cover administrative and logistical costs.

### **Donations in EUR:**

- Zenith Institute
- Raiffeisenbank Tre Valli
- IBAN: CH73 8080 8009 7853 6160 3
- BIC / SWIFT: RAIFCH22XXX
- Reference: „Taizé“

**Age & Supervision:** Generally 15–35 years (per Taizé guidelines).

- For 15–17 year olds: We take primary responsibility. Written parental consent is required (see appendix) and must be emailed to [info@zenithinstitute.com](mailto:info@zenithinstitute.com) by July 15.
  - For 18–35 year olds: Participants are responsible for themselves, though we meet daily as a group.
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## Program

- **15–17 Year Olds:** Special program with daily Bible introductions, small group discussions (approx. 10 people), and occasional practical tasks (e.g. cooking, gardening) accompanied by supervisors.
  - **18–35 Year Olds:** Daily Bible introductions by a brother or sister of the community, followed by small group discussions. Afternoon workshops on faith, solidarity, peace, ecology, art, and culture.
  - **For Everyone:** Three musical services per day. Additionally, our Sufi group has a daily check-in for exchange and fun.
  - *Note:* You do not have to be Christian to participate. We do this in the spirit of interreligious discourse, to get a feeling for another community. You decide what fits for you and which program points you'd like to attend.
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## Logistics

- **Accommodation:** In your own tent. If you don't have one, group tents or shared rooms are available upon arrival (please notify us). We prefer to camp close together as a group. Nori can also bring extra tents if you let him know in time.
  - **Meals:** Vegetarian; all lunches are vegan. Meat options are sometimes available in the evenings. Allergies (gluten-free/lactose-free) can be accommodated if reported on-site.
  - **Alcohol/Drugs:** Only one glass of alcohol per person/day can be bought at the „Oyak“ in the evening. Youth must hand in any brought alcohol at La Morada. Cannabis is illegal in France and not permitted, also, it doesn't fit the spirit of this journey.
  - **Insurance:** Responsibility of the participants. Health insurance is mandatory; travel/international health insurance is recommended.
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## Leadership Team



**Gemma Hauser** studied Social Work and is a freelance wilderness and nature educator. She has toured Switzerland with the theater circus Wunderplunder and is a yoga teacher. Gemma loves the sea in its many forms. At Zenith, she leads the children's tent.



**Nori Khellaf** is a studied primary school teacher and experiential educator focusing on teens and young adults. He lives at the Caduceus Center, works with permaculture, and is currently responsible for the Zenith secretariat. In the past, he has led the youth program during camp, as well as the children's tent.

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## Packing List

Clothing	Equipment	Documents	Other ideas
Summer leisure wear	Own tent (or shared)	Valid Passport/ID	
Warm sweater & long pants	Sleeping bag	Health insurance card	Reading material?
Work clothes (gardening etc.)	Sleeping mat/Air mattress	Emergency contact info	Favorite game?
Pajamas	Small pillow if needed	Foreign health cert.	Musical instrument?

<b>Clothing</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Documents</b>	<b>Other ideas</b>
Underwear & socks	Flashlight/Headlamp		Camera?
Rain jacket & pants	Hygiene kit		
Sun hat & sunglasses	Sunscreen & Towel		
Comfortable shoes	Water bottle		
Sandals/Flip-flops	Food for the travel		

*Note: Please wear appropriate clothing (knees and shoulders covered) during prayers and in the church.*